

Message Text

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TAGS: OREP

SUBJECT: CODEL STRATTON

REF: (A) CAIRO 3635: (B) CAIRO 3627

1. CODEL STRATTON ARRIVED CAIRO WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 21 AT 1340 HOURS. PARTY WAS GREETED AT AIRPORT BY DEPUTY SPEAKER OF PEOPLES ASSEMBLY, DR GAMAL OTEIFI, GEN SAAD MAAMOUN, ASSISTANT TO THE MINISTER OF WAR, AND SEVERAL REPRESENTATIVES OF PEOPLES ASSEMBLY. IN THE AFTERNOON CODEL WAS GIVEN BRIEFINGS BY USINT OFFICERS CONCERNING POLITICAL AND MINITARY SITUATION AND ALSO BY COMMAND-ING OFFICER OF NAMRU-3 CONCERNING ITS ACTIVITIES. DURING THE USINT BRIEFING, CONGRESSMAN WERE INFORMED OF EGYPTIAN SENSITIVITY TO THE FACT THAT THE CODEL VISITED THE ISRAELI SALIENT ON THE WEST BANK OF THE SUEZ CANAL AND WERE ADVISED NOT TO DISCUSS THAT PORTION OF THEIR VISIT WITH EGYPTIANS. CONGRESSMEN WERE ALSO ADVISED CONCERNING SOME OTHER POINTS WHICH THEY SHOULD AVOID IN DISCUSSIONS.

2. EARLY IN EVENING GROUP WAS TAKEN TO PEOPLES ASSEMBLY BUILD-INT FOR DISCUSSIONS WITH PEOPLES ASSEMBLY REPRESENTATIVES. DISCUSSION GROUP ON EGYPTIAN SIDE WAS HEADED BY HAFEZ BADAWI, SPEAKER OF PEOPLES ASSEMBLY. HE HAD WITH HIM DEPUTY SPEAKER AND SEVERAL REPRESENTATIVES OF THE PEOPLES ASSEMBLY INCLUDING RUSHDI SAID AND LEILA TAKLA. IN INTRODUCTORY STATEMENT BY HAFEZ BADWAI HE MENTIONED THAT EGYPTIANS WERE SINCERE, PEACE LOVING PEOPLE WHO WANT TO LIVE IN PEACE, BUT IT SHOULD BE UNDERSTOOD THAT NO MATTER HOW HARD THEY TRY FOR PEACE THEY REFUSE TO SURRENDER. HE

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SPOKE OF EGYPTIANS PEOPLES FONDNESS FOR AMERICANS AND FACT THAT

MANY EGYPTIANS HAD STUDIED IN UNITED STATES AND HAD RELATIVES THERE. HE SAID US HAD BEEN SUPPORTING AN ENEMY, HOWEVER, AND IT WAS UNFAIR. HE MADE THE POINT THAT ISRAEL IS OCCUPYING EGYPTIAN LAND, HAS DESTROYED EGYPTIAN CITIES AND HAS ALSO DESTROYED CHILDREN AND OLD PEOPLE, UNFORTUNATELY ALL OF THIS DONE WITH US WEAPONS. HE SAID THAT EGYPTIAN MAN IN STREET KNOWS WHO IS SUPPORTING ISRAEL BUT WANTS TO IMPROVE RELATIONS WITH US AND ISNT BEING GIVEN THE CHANCE. HE FINISHED BY SAYING ALL THAT WE ASKING FOR IS OUR OWN LAND, NOT WHAT BELONGS TO SOMEONE ELSE. HE ASSERTED THAT PRESIDENT SADAT HAS THE FULL SUPPORT OF THE PEOPLE AND WHEN HE SPEAKS YOU WILL KNOW WHAT EGYPT WANTS.

3. CONGRESSMAN STRATTON IN REPLY THANKED BADAWI FOR HIS FRANKNESS, ALLUDING TO THE FACT THAT IT WAS THE FIRST US DELEGATION OF ITS KIND TO BE VISITING EGYPT IN MANY YEARS AND THE FACT THT THE DELEGATES WERE IN A SENSE CAST IN THE ROLE OF DIPLOMATS. HE EXPLAINED THAT THE DELEGATION HAD COME TO EGYPT LOOKING FOR PEACE, BECAUSE THEY MUST APPROVE THE BUDGETS FOR ARMS. HE NOTED THAT THE COST OF ARMS WAS STAGGERING. ALTHOUGH IT IS AN ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE, HE BELIEVED THE GOAL OF EVERY MEMBER OF THE COMMITTEE WAS TO ELIMINATE WARFARE AND ESTABLISH PEACE. HE EXPAINED THAT US SUPPORT TO ISRAEL WAS IMPORTANT AND ONE MUST CONSIDER THAT THE US HAD A ROLE IN THE CREATION OF ISRAEL. THE US POSITION HAS BEEN THAT IN SUPPLYING MILITARY GOODS, THE INTENT WAS TO PREVENT WAR BY CREATING A BALANCE OF ARMS IN THE AREA. UNFORTUNATELY THIS HAD NOT OCCURED ON ALL OCCASIONS IN THE MIDDLE EAST, BUT IN TRYING TO ACHIEVE UNDERSTANDING WE MUST LOOK NOT TO THE PAST BUT TO THE FUTURE. THIS ABILITY TO SEE THINGS IN THIS WAY IS A UNIQUE QUALITY THAT DR. KISSINGER HAS APPLIED TO US FOREIGN POLICY NOT ONLY ASIA, BUT IN THE MIDDLE EAST. THE IMPORTANCE PLACED UPON THE US CONGRESS GETTING A BALANCED VIEW OF THE SITUATION WAS UNDERSCORED BY THE FACT THAT EVEN THOUGH THERE WAS ONLY A SHORT RECESS OF CONGRESS 21 CONGRESSMEN HAD COME TO SEE THE SITUATION IN BOTH ISRAEL AND EGYPT THEMSELVES. THIS THEY WANTED TO DO WITHOUT PUBLICITY OR FANFARE SO THAT THEY COULD THEN SIT DOWN TO FIND WAYS TO HELP ACHIEVE A PEACE. HE SUMMARIZED BY SAYING THAT HIS IMPRESSION THUS FAR WAS THAT BTH THE ISRAELIS AND EGYPTIANS WANT TO LIVE IN PEACE AND EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT SOMEHOW A FORMULA WOULD BE FOUND TO BRING PEACE TO THE AREA AND THAT HIS SUBCOMMITTEE'S DISCUSSIONS WOULD CONTRIBUTE TO FINDING LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THAT FORMULA. HE POINTED OUT HOW IMPORTANT IT HAD BEEN THAT AFTER TWO OR THREE DAYS OF MEETINGS AT KILO 101, THE TWO SOLDIERS NEGOTIATORS WERE PHOTOGRAPHED SHAKING HANDS. TALKS ACROSS THE TABLE SUCH AS ARE TAKING PLACE IN THIS ROOM RIGHT NOW ARE VERY IMPORTANT.

4. SPEAKER BADAWI IN REPLY ASKED THE RHETORICAL QUESTION: "WHAT HAS THE AVERAGE EGYPTIAN DONE TO HAVE THE US TAXPAYER SPEND SO

MUCH MONEY TO SEND ARMS TO ISRAEL WHICH ARE IN TURN USED AGAINST THE EGYPTIANS?" HE REFERRED TO A NEWSPAPER REPORT THAT A CONGRESSIONAL GROUP HAD GONE TO ISRAEL SIMPLY TO FIND OUT WHAT THERE NEEDS FOR NEW ARMS AND AID WERE. HE SAID, "ONE DOES NOT PREVENT WAR BY SENDING ARMS IN SUCH QUANTITIES."

5. CONGRESSMAN STRATTON REPLIED THAT IT WAS NOT HIS GROUP AND CONGRESSMAN BRAY ADDED TO THE DENIAL BY SAYING THAT HE WAS SURE THAT NO COMMITTEE OF THE US CONGRESS WENT TO ISRAEL WITH ANY AUTHORITY TO MAKE SUCH A STATEMENT.

6. THE EXCHANGE BETWEEN CONGRESSMEN AND MEMBERS OF EGYPTIAN PEOPLES ASSEMBLY WENT ON FOR ALMOST TWO HOURS. IT WAS FRANK, FRIENDLY AND, WHILE THE EGYPTIANS WERE SIMPLY STATING WELL-KNOWN POSITIONS, IT WAS DONE EFFECTIVELY AND CONGRESSMEN WERE FULLY APPRECIATIVE.

7. AFTER MEETING AT PEOPLE ASSEMBLY, A DINNER WAS GIVEN BY HAFEZ BADAWI IN HONOR OF DELEGATION EXCHANGES BETWEEN CONGRESSMEN AND REPRESENTATIVES CONTINUED UNTIL 11:15 IN THE EVENING. THERE WERE NO TOAST GIVEN AT THE DINNER.

8. THE NEXT MORNING THE CODEL MET WITH PRESIDENT SADAT AT HIS RURAL RESIDENCE IN QANATIR. A REPORT OF THIS MEETING WAS MADE BY REF (A) AFTER BRIEF VISIT TO PYRAMIDS AND SPHINX IN AFTER NOON, CONGRESSMEN RETURNED TO HOTEL AND AT 7:00 PM MET WITH GEN AHMED ISMAIL AI, MINISTER OF WAR, AT ZAMALEK OFFICERS' CLUB THIS MEETING WHICH MUST ALSO BE CATEGORIZED AS FRANK AND FRIENDLY WAS REPORTED BY REF (B)

9. ON FRIDAY NOVEMBER 23 THE GROUP WAS TAKEN TO PORT SAID, PORT FOUAD, AND QANTARA. THE ESCORTS WERE GEN SAAD MAAMOUN FORMER COMMANDER OF THE SECOND ARMY AND PRESENTLY ASSISTANT TO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THE MINISTER OF WAR, AND HASSAN SABRI AL KHOLI, ADVISOR TO THE PRESIDENT. IT WAS A FULL AND INTERESTING DAY AND CONGRESSMEN WERE VERY APPRECIATIVE OF
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